

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1864.



AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1864.

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# FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 10.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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LAND OFFICE, AUGUSTA, }  
February 19, 1864. }

*To the Speaker of the House of Representatives :*

SIR:—In answer to the order of the House of Representatives, passed the 18th instant, requesting the Land Agent “to furnish to the House a written statement of the number of days he has been employed during the past year upon the public lands, and how many days in the Land Office; also, what services are required of a clerk incompatible with the duties of the Land Agent; and the total expense of the Land Office for the past year, including services of sub-agents and travelling expenses,” I would respectfully state, that I presume the order has reference to the time which I have held the office, which is less than one year, having entered upon the duties of the office on the 18th of March last. I have spent *eight months* of my time *away from home*, on the duties of the Land Office exclusively. Six weeks of this time I have spent in visiting the public lands, and the balance at the Land Offices in Augusta and Bangor, besides which I have devoted a fair share of my time at home to such general matters as could be done there. Circumstances beyond my control prevented me from making further examinations of the public lands.

In reference to the inquiry as to “what services are required of a clerk incompatible with the duties of the Land Agent,” I can only say, that I do not know of any, only the fact that it is absolutely *impossible* for the Land Agent to do *all the duties required of him by the statute*, (see chap. 5,) without the assistance of a *first*

*class clerk or deputy.* From the time of the adjournment of the Legislature until it meets again, the land office in Bangor must be kept constantly open, and I have never seen the time when at that office that myself and the clerk were not fully and constantly employed on official business; and I am satisfied that a competent deputy is as much needed in this department as in those of the State or Treasury. No adequate idea of the duties of this office is obtained by an examination of the results as embodied in the annual reports. Much time is spent in adjusting claims, giving information to those who wish to settle on the public lands, and with those who wish to buy lands or stumpage, organizing and directing surveying and exploring parties, scaldmen, and others who have or seek business with the office.

The duties of the office are largely constructive and call for a constant exercise of discretion and judgment on the part of the Agent; and it certainly will not be thought strange that the care of *eighty townships of land*, forty of them now being settled under the superintendence of this office, permits to be granted on many to cut timber, and strict watch and ward to be kept upon the whole, should tax the brain and muscle of any man to such an extent as to make it needful to have an able and efficient assistant.

The expense of the office is as follows, viz :

Salary of Land Agent from March 18, 1863,		
to Feb. 18, 1864, . . . . .	\$1,375	00
Travelling expenses on public business same		
time, . . . . .	158	88
	—————	\$1,533 88
Office rent for the year ending Nov. 30, 1863,	200	00
Postage for same time, . . . . .	168	31
Stationery, . . . . .	119	04
Fuel and incidental expenses, . . . . .	51	41
	—————	538 76
Local agents for year ending Nov. 30, 1863,	751	50
W. D. Dana, work on plans, transferring, &c.,	120	83
	—————	871 13
		—————
		\$2,943 77

It will be observed that all of the above items except the first two and the last are for the year ending Nov. 30, 1863. It would

LAND AGENT'S STATEMENT.

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be somewhat difficult to give the items of expense for the last eleven months, as all the accounts are made up to the close of the land office year, viz., the 30th of November, regardless of who may be the Land Agent. They will not vary much from year to year.

The last item is not an annual expense, but is work that has to be done by an experienced draughtsman or surveyor when it becomes necessary to re-draft or transfer the plans in the office in order to preserve the originals. This item is only an occasional expense.

Respectfully,

HIRAM CHAPMAN, *Land Agent.*

# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR.

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AN ACT to provide for the payment of clerk hire in the land office.

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :*

SECTION 1. The governor and council are hereby  
2 authorized to allow the land agent, an amount not  
3 exceeding one thousand dollars per annum, from the  
4 eighteenth of March, eighteen hundred sixty-three, for  
5 clerk hire in his office.

SECT. 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with  
2 this act are hereby repealed.

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# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 20, 1864. }

On motion of Mr. HINKS of Bucksport, 350 copies of the within bill, together with the accompanying communication, ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

HORACE STILSON, *Clerk.*